

'Army' Moves Entire Store Overnight

BY NORMAN BOWMAN
Business Writer

A special crew moved into Mervyn's department store at 1070 S. White Road at 6 p.m. Saturday, and by mid-morning today the five-year-old store will be operating on Story Road midway between Capitol Expressway and White Road.

With the precision of a drill team and determination of an army, the 37,000-square-foot old store was "attacked" to transfer every last merchandise item from one location to the other — in time for the new store's opening at noon today.

Programmed to the inch and minute, crews swept into the old store and put every clothes hangar item on garment dollies and pack-folded items in color-coded cartons.

Special containers handled perfume bottles, handbags and accessories. Soon they were on their way to coded

locations in the new store to be set up just as customers expect the goods to be shown.

Ronald Gray, vice president of stores for Mervyn's, and Vic Hughes, store manager, said the "exercise" of making such a complete and sudden move of an entire store is a first for the thriving department store chain.

It was also a "mark of the items" for the old store was Mervyn's first venture into the San Jose market just five

years ago. The 37,000-square-foot building has long been outgrown.

At 9 p.m., a fleet of Mayflower moving vans started their all-night shuttle between stores, moving department by department.

At the new store in Mervyn's shopping center, a separate crew was on hand to unpack merchandise and arrange it properly — right down to section, size and style. It was their job to merge goods from the old lo-

cation with new goods, because the new Mervyn's has almost twice as much sales floor as the old one — and store stock is much greater.

Already in place were such items as toys, wigs and fine jewelry the old store couldn't offer for lack of space.

Today at noon, another "crew" will be on hand. They will be the hundred or so employees from the old store, many who have been hired to bring the store staff to nearly 150. Hughes said that as the firm moves into the Christmas season, the staff will grow to more than 200, including many part-time people.

Wednesday at 9:30 a.m., the sparkling new store will hold its grand opening ceremonies. President John F. Kilmartin will cut the ribbon, and will launch normal operations that extend service to seven days and five evenings a week.

Mervyn's, now based in

San Lorenzo, is rated as one of the fastest growing department store firms in the west. It started with just three employees in San Lorenzo in 1949, and today Mervyn's has eight major stores, will open three more this month, and now has more than three quarters of a million square feet of retail space.

The new San Jose store generates an annual payroll of about \$1 million.

Super Roads For Moscow

MOSCOW (UPI) — Surveyors have started mapping the routes for six 16-lane highways fanning out from the Soviet capital to cope with spurting production of cars and trucks, says the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya.

The six turnpikes with eight lanes in either direction will be 371 miles long and will extend from the circular highway around Moscow towards Volokolamsk, Dmitrov, Kashira, Klin, Kolomna and Serpukhov.

Two Gunmen Hit S.C. Loan Company for \$80

SANTA CLARA—Two men who said they wanted a \$500 loan pulled guns and tied up a clerk at Avco Finance, 3741 El Camino Real, Friday afternoon.

The pair tried to jimmy a safe but failed and fled with

only about \$80 in cash, police said.

The clerk told police the men came in and filled out a loan application before producing guns. They tied her up and locked her in a restroom.

When she freed herself they were gone.